REMARKS

I. Interview

Applicant graciously acknowledges that the Examiner granted an interview on September 10, 2009 with Timothy J. Le Duc. The present Application and the prior art references being applied were discussed, including Kamada. No agreement was reached at that time and the Examiner reserved the right to perform further searching. However, it was suggested to clarify that (1) the menu screen is updated without user interaction, and (2) the claim language associated with accessibility.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-16 and 18-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0079028 to Kortum et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,637 to Kamada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,423,892 to Ramaswamy and U.S. Patent No. 6,999,754 to Hashimoto et al. Claims 12 and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kortum et al. in view of Kamada, Ramaswamy, and Hashimoto et al., and in further view of Nakano et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0128768). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action misinterprets Kamada. The Office Action states that Kamada "discloses a menu screen display processing unit configured to display the content connection status of each linked server specified by a respective piece of link information. (Col. 15, lines 59-67 and figure 16 (element 165)." (Office Action, Page 3.) However, Kamada relates to "automatically trac[ing] link destinations." Abstract. "FIG. 16 is an example of a 'return' processing flow." (Col. 14, lines 52-53.) "[I]t is sometimes desired to return to the page position displayed immediately before in time." (Col. 9, lines 56-58.) Therefore, as shown in Figure 17(b), Kamada may display links that were previously visited. However, the cited portions of Kamada do not

disclose dynamically polling a server associated with each link to ensure that the linked content may be currently downloaded.

In sum, element 165 of Figure 16 merely states: "Delete the Last Record From History Table 140" and col. 15, lines 59-67 relates to "automatic downloading." Therefore, the cited portions of Kamada do not disclose displaying "the current connection status of each linked server specified by a respective piece of linked information." (Office Action at 3.) If the cited portions of Kamada did display a current connection status, arguably there would be no need for a "retry count (number of retries to be made at a connection failure time)." (Col. 15, lines 61-62.)

Applicant also respectfully submits that the Office Action misinterprets Hashimoto et al. The Office Action states that Hashimoto et al. discloses a "terminal controller [that] directs the connection status checking unit to recheck the connection status of each of the linked servers and the menu screen display processing unit to then display the up-to-date connection status of each of the linked servers such that user selection of a linked server that has become inaccessible due to a change in at least one of the plurality of predetermined vehicle conditions can be avoided (abstract and Figure 2)." (Office Action at 4.)

The cited portions of Hashimoto et al. on page 4 of the Office Action disclose a conventional system that facilitates "communication by using electronic mail between vehicles." (Abstract.) Hashimoto et al. also discloses displaying "the received content on the screen S2503." (Figure 14B.) However, the cited portions of Hashimoto et al. do not display a visual depiction of the connection status of a plurality of linked servers. (*See, e.g.,* Figure 2.)

A. Independent Claim 7

Independent claim 7 recites "a terminal controller configured to monitor for a plurality of predetermined vehicle conditions of the vehicle on which the vehicle mounted

terminal is mounted, wherein when the terminal controller determines that one of the plurality of predetermined vehicle conditions has been satisfied, the terminal controller automatically and without direct human intervention directs (1) the connection status checking unit to dynamically recheck the connection status of each of the linked servers and (2) the menu screen display processing unit to then display the up-to-date connection status of each of the linked servers to indicate currently inaccessible linked servers from which information cannot be currently downloaded by the vehicle mounted terminal such that user selection of a piece of link information associated with a linked server that has become inaccessible due to a change in at least one of the plurality of predetermined vehicle conditions can be avoided and user selection of a piece of link information associated with a linked server indicated as being currently accessible results in the vehicle mounted terminal successfully downloading information associated with the piece of link information selected."

As noted above, the Office Action relies upon the Abstract and Figure 2 of Hashimoto et al. as disclosing a terminal controller that directs a connection status checking unit to recheck the connection status of each of the linked servers and a menu screen display processing unit to then display the up-to-date connection status of each of the linked servers. (Office Action at 4.) The relied upon portions of Hashimoto et al. disclose inter-vehicle communication, not monitoring predetermined vehicle events that impact the connection status of servers, and then dynamically rechecking the connection status of each server when a vehicle event occurs.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection to claim 7 has been overcome. Claims 8-17 depend on independent claim 7 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

B. Independent Claim 18

Independent claim 18 as amended recites "without direct human intervention, automatically updating the menu screen on the vehicle mounted terminal to remove pieces of link information that are associated with link servers that are currently inaccessible and from which information is not currently downloadable by the vehicle mounted terminal and display only pieces of link information that are associated with linked servers that are currently accessible via the vehicle mounted terminal and from which information is currently downloadable by the vehicle mounted terminal based upon dynamically rechecking the connection status of each linked server in response to the predetermined vehicle condition being detected such that user selection of a piece of link information associated with a linked server that is currently inaccessible from the vehicle mounted terminal and from which information is not be currently downloadable by the vehicle mounted terminal can be avoided and that user selection of any displayed piece of link information results in the vehicle mounted terminal successfully downloading information from an associated and currently accessible linked server."

For at least the same reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection to claim 18 has been overcome. Additionally, the portions of the references cited do not automatically update a menu screen to display only pieces of link information that are associated with linked servers that are currently accessible. Claims 19-20 depend on independent claim 18 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

C. Independent Claim 21

Independent claim 21 as amended recites "when a predetermined vehicle event is detected by the terminal controller, the terminal controller automatically without direct human intervention directs the connection status checking unit to dynamically recheck the

connection status of each server, and if the connection status of a server previously accessible via the vehicle mounted terminal has changed to being inaccessible, the terminal controller automatically without direct human intervention updates the menu screen to reflect that the previously accessible server is currently inaccessible via the vehicle mounted terminal and information from the now inaccessible server is currently not downloadable by the vehicle mounted terminal such that user selection of a corresponding piece of link information associated with the now inaccessible server can be avoided while user selection of a piece of link information associated with a server indicated as being currently accessible results in the vehicle mounted terminal successfully downloading information from the server indicated as being currently accessible."

For at least the same reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection to claim 21 has been overcome. Claims 22-26 depend on independent claim 21 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

SUMMARY

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the Application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (312) 321-4277.

Respectfully submitted,

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